

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PM-05 /028 W
-----053877 180758Z /14

R 171515Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1232
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
DIA WASH DC
PRES NDU WASH DC
HQ DEPT OF THE ARMY WASH DC//DAMI-FLS//
CSAF WASH DC//CVAF//

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 BUDAPEST 1544

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OTRA, MILI, HU
SUBJECT: NDU VISIT TO HUNGARY

1. NDU VISIT TO BUDAPEST CONCLUDED WITH DEPARTURE OF 8 NWU OFFICERS BY RAIL TO VIENNA AT 0905 ON 17 APRIL. ICAF GROUP DEPARTED FOR BUCHAREST ON 13 APRIL.

2. FINAL SCHEDULE OF VISIT, AS FOLLOWS:

10 APRIL: ICAF VISITORS ARRIVED. WERE GUESTS AT AMBAS-
SADORIAL FILM SCREENING FOR HOST COUNTRY NATIONALS AND DIPLO-
MATIC AUDIENCE OF STAR WARS AT LOCAL THEATRE. LATE ARRIVAL
OF NWU VISITORS PRECLUDED ATTENDANCE.

11 APRIL: 0900 - 1300 EMBASSY ORIENTATION AND BRIEFINGS.
1500 - 1730: BRIEFINGS AND DISCUSSIONS AT HUNGARIAN MINISTRY
OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. BRIEFING AND DISCUSSION CONDUCTED BY DR.
JANOS BARTHA, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR W. EUROPE AND NORTH AMERICA
ASSISTED BY ISTVAN FEDOR, AMERICAN DESK OFFICER.

12 APRIL: 0845 - 1230 TOUR OF BUDAPEST. 1445 -
1730: BRIEFINGS AND DISCUSSION AT HUNGARIAN MINISTRY FOR
FOREIGN TRADE. CONDUCTED PRINCIPALLY BY MR. EDE SZIKLAI,
AND MR. ZOLTAN HONTI. EVENING DEVOTED TO CULTURAL AC-
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TIVITIES, E.G. OPERA, CONCERT, CIRCUS.

13 APRIL: 0900 - 1130 BRIEFINGS AND DISCUSSION AT
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. CONDUCTED BY COL (DR.) JENO KISS,
HUNGARIAN PEOPLE'S ARMY SECRETARY OF GENERAL STAFF.
1200 - 1400 LUNCHEON FOR VISITORS AND SELECTED HOST COUN-
TRY OFFICIALS. 1400 ICAF GROUP DEPARTED; REMAINDER OF
SCHEDULE IS NWU ONLY. 1400 - 1730: APPOINTMENTS WITH EM-

BASSY OFFICERS.

14 APRIL: 0830 - 1430: DRIVE BY INDUSTRIAL AREA; VISIT TO BENTAVOLGY COOPERATIVE FARM. BRIEFING, VISIT ALL FACILITIES INCLUDING DAIRY, CATTLE BREEDING ENTERPRISE AND MEAT PROCESSING PLANT. 1500 - 1700 APPOINTMENTS WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS.

15 APRIL: 0830 - 1630 COUNTRY ORIENTATION BY AIRA AND ARMA. VISIT INCLUDED CITIES OF ESZTERGOM, VISEGRAD (CZECH BORDER) AND SZENTENDRE. PERMITTED VISITORS TO VIEW INDUSTRIAL, AGRICULTURAL, MINING, TRANSPORTATION, AS WELL AS SOME MILITARY, FACILITIES AND PLACES OF HISTORIC SIGNIFICANCE.

16 APRIL: AM: OPTIONAL RELIGIOUS SERVICES IN HUNGARIAN CHURCH; AFTERNOON: VISIT MILITARY HISTORY MUSEUM AND OLD FORTIFICATION.

3. DETAILED REPORTS ON BRIEFINGS AND DISCUSSIONS WILL BE REPORTED THROUGH NORMAL REPORTING CHANNELS. FOLLOWING ARE INTENDED TO PROVIDE ONLY SHORT COMMENT ON NATURE AND EXTENT OF EACH SESSION:

A. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS: VISITORS RECEIVED A DETAILED AND ACCURATE PRESENTATION OF ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTION OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND A CANDID STATEMENT OF HUNGARIAN FOREIGN POLICY; ITS DEVELOPMENT, CURRENT OUTLOOK AND TRENDS. PER VISITORS REQUEST, HUNGARIAN - AMERICAN RELATIONS RECEIVED EMPHASIS. STUDENT QUESTIONS WERE FIELDIED IN A FORTHRIGHT AND PRAGMATIC FA-CONFIDENTIAL

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SHION;DISCUSSION PROVIDED ADEQUATE AMPLIFICATION AND DETAIL.

B. MINISTRY FOR FOREIGN TRADE: VISITORS RECEIVED A LENGTHY AND VERY DETAILED BRIEFING. THE BRIEFERS ENDEAVORED TO PROVIDE SPECIFIC AND ACCURATE RESPONSES TO THE QUESTION TO THE DEGREE INFORMATION WAS AVAILABLE. WHERE DETAILED DATA DID NOT EXIST, THE BRIEFER GAVE A GENERAL ANSWER AND OFFERED TO OBTAIN DATA.

C. MINISTRY OF DEFENSE: THE BRIEFINGS AND DISCUSSIONS AT MOD WERE SIGNIFICANT IN THAT THEY WERE HELD IN THE DEFENSE MINISTER CONFERENCE ROOM. (THIS WAS AIRA'S FIRST VISIT TO MOD AFTER ALMOST 2 YEARS IN COUNTRY; ARMA'S SECOND VISIT) THE BRIEFER DID NOT SPEAK ENGLISH, AN INTERPRETER WAS USED, WHICH TOOK SOME EXTRA TIME. THE BRIEFING WAS WELL-ORGANIZED, ACCURATE AND PROVIDED UNPRECEDENTED DETAIL AND INFORMATION. DISCUSSIONS WERE VERY CANDID; THE BRIEFER DID NOT AVOID QUESTIONS OR WAFFLE ANSWERS.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 BUDAPEST 1544

4. DATT/ARMA WAS INFORMED BY MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND MINISTRY
OF DEFENSE OFFICIALS THAT GOVERNMENT OF
HUNGARY REGARDED VISIT AS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL FROM
THEIR VIEWPOINT. THEY REGARDED VISIT AS AN OPPORTUNITY
FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH INDIVIDUALS WHO WILL OCCUPY
RESPONSIBLE POSITIONS OF FUTURE LEADERSHIP IN U.S. ALL
GOH REPRESENTATIVES WERE FAVORABLY IMPRESSED WITH VISI-
TORS WHOM THEY REGARDED AS HIGHLY INTELLIGENT, WELL-
PREPARED,
DIPLOMATIC AND GENUINELY INTERESTED IN LEARN-
ING ABOUT HUNGARY. GOH PARTICULARLY APPRECIATED LOW-
KEY, QUIET, NON-MILITARY EMPHASIS IN APPROACH TO VISIT.
SOME HEARTBURN WAS EXPRESSED CONCERNING SMALL NUMBER OF
CIVILIAN MEMBERS IN GROUP AS WELL AS CHANGES IN ITINERARY
FROM THAT ORIGINALLY PRESENTED. WHILE GOH OFFICIALS AC-
CEPTED EXPLANATION THAT THESE OCCURED FUNDAMENTALLY BE-
CAUSE OF CONSOLIDATION OF GROUPS AND CHANGE IN DATES,
NEVERTHELESS, ITINERARY AND COMPOSITION OF SUCH GROUPS IS
IMPORTANT IN EASTERN EUROPE FOR BOTH INTER-AGENCY
AND INTER-COUNTRY COORDINATION AND CHANGES CAUSED
MFA SOME PROBLEMS. (IT MIGHT BE USEFUL TO REINFORCE
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WITH HUNGARIANS IN WASHINGTON THAT HAD ORIGINAL
PLANS MATERIALIZED, BOTH ITINERARY AND COMPOSITION OF

GROUP WOULD HAVE DIFFERED.)

5. VISITORS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH VISIT AND EXPECTATIONS HAD BEEN EXCEEDED AND VISIT WAS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL IN PROVIDING AN OPPORTUNITY TO GAIN REAL INSIGHT INTO OPERATIONS AND PERCEPTIONS IN A SOCIALIST GOVERNMENT.

6. FROM EMBASSY VIEWPOINT, THIS VISIT WAS SUCCESSFUL AND USEFUL. IT PROVIDED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR EMBASSY OFFICERS, WITH VISITORS TO HAVE SOME USEFUL MEETINGS AND DISCUSSIONS; IT PROVIDED MILITARY ATTACHES IMPROVED OPPORTUNITIES WITHIN WHICH THEY CAN EXPAND THEIR HORIZONS WITHIN GOH AND IT ALLOWED GOH THE CHANCE TO IMPROVE ITS PERCEPTION OF U.S. MILITARY-SCHOLARS.

7. BECAUSE OF THE AUSTERE STAFFING AND SUPPORT RESOURCES OF EMBASSY BUDAPEST, THE COMPRESSED TIME-FRAME WITHIN WHICH THIS VISIT WAS REQUIRED TO BE CONDUCTED, WE COULD NOT SUPPORT THE VISIT IN EVERY DETAIL AS WELL AS WE WOULD HAVE PREFERRED. GOH, WHILE IT MADE EVERY EFFORT TO CO-OPERATE, IS NOT STRUCTURED FOR RAPID, FLEXIBLE RESPONSE. FUTURE VISITS SHOULD BE PLANNED FIRMLY AND SCHEDULED CONSIDERABLY IN ADVANCE OF THE TIME ALLOTTED IN THIS CASE TO INSURE BETTER RESPONSE AND LESS STRAIN ON FACILITIES AND GOH GOODWILL HERE.

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Message Attributes

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